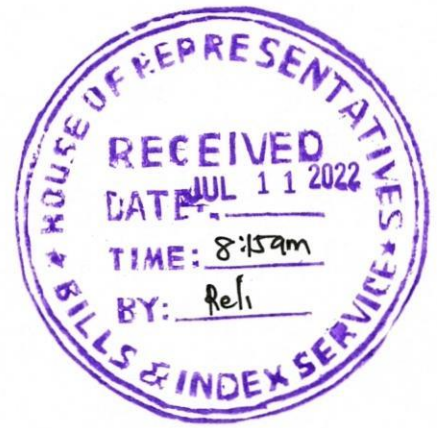


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1727



Introduced by HON. RUTH MARIANO-HERNANDEZ

AN ACT
MAKING THE POSITION OF TOURISM OFFICER MANDATORY IN THE MUNICIPAL,
CITY AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991", AS
AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The tourism industry comprises a significant part of the economy of the Philippines.

Our country's islands offer diverse tourism destinations that attract domestic and foreign tourists. In fact, according to the Department of Tourism, the number of tourist arrivals increased by 15.24 percent to more than 8.26 million in 2019 from the previous year. This, in turn, has translated to the industry contributing 12.7 percent share of the country's gross domestic product in 2019. This is about P482.15 billion in visitor receipts in 2019 – an increase of 18.80 percent.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said that employment in tourism-related industries was estimated at 5.71 million in 2019, higher by 6.5 percent compared to 5.36 million in the previous year. Share of employment in tourism industries to total employment in the country was recorded at 13.5 percent.

The Tourism Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 9593) was enacted to harness the tourism industry's potential as an additional driver for investments, foreign exchange and employment. The said law also put a premium on the role of local government units (LGUs) in the maximization of tourism to spark additional local economic growth. Section 42 of the Tourism Act of 2009 states that "Every province, city or municipality in which tourism is a significant industry shall have a permanent position for a tourism officer."

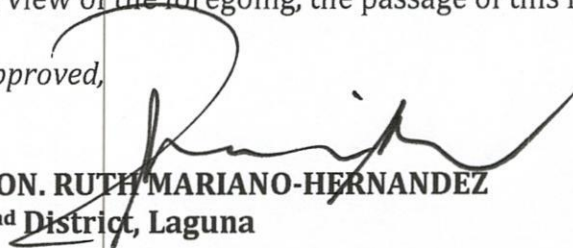
But most LGUs have not complied with this provision since the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) has no expressed provision to appoint tourism officers.

Therefore, it is the intent of this bill to amend the Local Government Code of 1991 to enable the mandatory appointment of tourism officers in the provincial, city and municipality LGUs where tourism is a significant industry.

The presence of a permanent tourism officer shall aid the development and promotion of tourism that shall eventually generate significant economic benefits for the locality.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is urgently requested.

Approved,



HON. RUTH MARIANO-HERNANDEZ
2nd District, Laguna

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 443, Book III, Title Two, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 443. Officials of the Municipal Government. — (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/ building official, a municipal health officer, and a municipal civil registrar. A municipal cooperatives development officer (CDO) shall also be appointed: *Provided*, That the municipality has the option to appoint a full-fledged CDO or merge related such position to an existing position or official in an office, unit or department in the municipal government: *Provided, further*, That if the municipality shall appoint a full-fledged CDO, the municipality has the option to set the rank, remuneration and other emoluments of the municipal CDO subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

A MUNICIPAL TOURISM OFFICER (MTO) SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED: PROVIDED, THAT IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, THE APPOINTMENT OF A MTO SHALL BE MANDATORY, PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE MUNICIPALITY HAS THE OPTION TO SET THE RANK, REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF THE MTO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

"(b) x x x

“(c) x x x

“(d) x x x

“(e) x x x.”

SECTION 2. Section 454, Book III, Title Three, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 454. Officials of the City Government. — (a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, and a city general services officer. A city CDO shall also be appointed: *Provided*, That the city has the option to appoint a full fledged CDO or merge such position to an existing position or official in a related office, unit or department in the city government: *Provided, further*, That if the city shall appoint a full fledged CDO, the city has the option to set the rank, remuneration and other emoluments of the city CDO subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations;

A CITY TOURISM OFFICER (CTO) SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED: PROVIDED, THAT IN CITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, THE APPOINTMENT OF A CTO SHALL BE MANDATORY, PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE CITY HAS THE OPTION TO SET THE RANK, REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF THE CTO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

“(b) x x x

“(c) x x x

“(d) x x x

“(e) x x x.”

SECTION 3. Section 463, Book III, Title Four, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 463. Officials of the Provincial Government. — (a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor; a provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, and a provincial veterinarian. A provincial CDO shall also be appointed: *Provided*, That the province, in the appointment of a full fledged CDO shall set the rank, remuneration and other emoluments of the provincial CDO subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

A PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICER (PTO) SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED: PROVIDED, THAT IN PROVINCES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, THE APPOINTMENT OF A PTO SHALL BE MANDATORY, PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE PROVINCE HAS THE OPTION TO SET THE RANK, REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF THE PTO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

“(b) x x x

“(c) x x x

“(d) x x x

“(e) x x x.”

SECTION 4. A new Article shall be inserted in Book III Title V of Republic Act No. 7160 to read as follows:

**ARTICLE XXI
THE TOURISM OFFICER**

SECTION 490-A. QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS, AND DUTIES. -

(A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED TOURISM OFFICER UNLESS HE IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, HAS NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY ELECTION OFFENSE OR A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY MORE THAN SIX (6) MONTHS, A HOLDER OF A RELEVANT BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN TOURISM, BUSINESS, ECONOMICS, MARKETING, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OR OTHER RELATED FIELDS FROM A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, AND A FIRST GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT. HE/SHE MUST HAVE ACQUIRED AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS OF SUBSTANTIAL WORK EXPERIENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY. THE APPOINTMENT OF A TOURISM OFFICER IS MANDATORY FOR THE PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY. LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS WITH EXISTING TOURISM OFFICERS PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT WILL BE GIVEN THREE (3) YEARS TO COMPLY WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED REQUIREMENTS.

(B) THE TOURISM OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE FOR TOURISM AND SHALL PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING:

(1) PREPARE, IMPLEMENT, COORDINATE, MONITOR, AND UPDATE LOCAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLANS;

(2) ENSURE THE PROPER ENFORCEMENT OF TOURISM STANDARDS, LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS;

(3) PROVIDE REGULAR REPORTS ON THE STATUS OF TOURISM PLANS AND PROGRAMS, TOURIST ARRIVALS, EMPLOYMENT, OCCUPANCY RATES,

INVESTMENTS AND TOURIST PRODUCTS, AMONG OTHERS, TO THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT);

(4) COORDINATE WITH THE DOT AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES, WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN THE LOCALITY; AND,

(5) ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PROMOTING THE TOURISM OF THEIR CONCERNED MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES, AND PROVINCES ON A NATIONAL AND GLOBAL SCALE.

(C) EXERCISE AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER POWERS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR ORDINANCE.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,